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GEORGIA!



'The road leads back to you, yeah'

Georgia voters will decide fate of senate and a new south, p3

All charges dropped in Kentucky lawmaker's rioting case

Philadelphiaobserver.com

State Rep. Attica Scott helped enact "Breonna's Law," which will ban no-knock warrants in Kentucky.

Charges brought against protestors seeking justice for Breonna Taylor in Kentucky have been dropped.

State Rep. Attica Scott took to Twitter on Monday to announce that the felony and misdemeanor charges against her and other protestors who were rallying for justice for Taylor are dropped.

"ALL CHARGES HAVE JUST BEEN DROPPED! Thank you to all of our justice seekers, people who called, emailed and tagged the County Attorney on social media. You got it done! Our work continues as we seek justice for Breonna Taylor."

Scott represents Kentucky's District 41. The day after she was arrested, she told WLKY News, "They (LMPD) claimed we were trying to burn down the library which doesn't make sense because I've been fighting for more funding for the libraries and the library is in my district. So, why would I try to burn it down? Makes



no sense."

Scott and 18 others were taken into custody after it was announced that the grand jury would only charge former LMPD officer Brett Hankinson in the Taylor case and only with wanton endangerment for putting her neighbors at risk. Hankinson was fired by the department in June.

Taylor, an EMT, was killed in a no-knock raid at her Louisville apartment building when her boyfriend Kenneth Walker fired on police believing they were intruders. Walker, a legal gun owner, was arrested but ultimately released without being charged.

Philadelphia will formally apologize for murdering Blacks in 1985 bombing

By Victor Trammell Philadelphiaobserver.com

In a long-overdue act of accepting responsibility, the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania chose to own up to massacring a Black neighborhood 35 years ago.

Any Black American person who is old enough traumatically remembers the May 13, 1985 siege of West Philadelphia, which targeted MOVE, a naturist Black liberation organization. On that day, the city of Philadelphia sought to evict MOVE from its headquarters; a property located at 6221 Osage Avenue in West Philly.

MOVE's membership refused to leave the property after a daylong confrontation with the city over what it called an illegitimate eviction service. The Philadelphia Police Department was then summoned and eventually, a standoff situation unfolded as the nation witnessed. Local and national media outlets were reporting as the situation progressed.

After the collapse of peaceful negotiations came to end the standoff, Philadelphia's police department resorted to absolute savagery in its efforts to crush MOVE's anti-eviction campaign once and for all.

What happened next mirrored the mind-blowing images from Israel's stifling siege of Beirut, Lebanon in July 1982, or the massive U.S. bombardment of Baghdad, Iraq in March 2003. However, this militarized West Philly struggle was not an internationally declared warzone. It was a deliberate attack against U.S.-born Blacks on American soil.

Philadelphia police summoned one of their helicopters to hover above 6221 Osage where MOVE was holed up. A bomb was dropped from the police chopper on the roof of the property, which leveled the compound and caused a huge explosion. The



Photo credits: Tom Gralish/The Philadelphia Inquirer

flames from the bomb blast quickly spread and torched many other homes in the predominantly Black neighborhood.

In the end, 61 residences were burned in flames. There were also 11 dead mostly Black victims, including five children. This obviously caused a public outcry in Philadelphia and across the nation. For the first time ever in America, a locally elected government was responsible for the massacre of its own citizens.

Decades later, on November 12, 2020, Philly's city council drafted a resolution, which paved the way for the municipality to formally apologize after its blitzkrieg of a Black neighborhood during the infamous 1985 MOVE eviction dispute.

"The resolution, approved almost unanimously (Councilmember Brian O'Neill said he opposed it), represents the first formal apology offered by the city for the May 13, 1985, bombing. It also establishes the anniversary of the bombing as 'an annual day of observation, reflection, and recommitment,'" reads a Monday (November 16) report by the Philadelphia Inquirer newspaper.

U.S. sees 20 straight days of 100,000 COVID-19 infections

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Thanksgiving and colder weather has many worried indoor socializing will cause more coronavirus cases.

As the United States prepares for this week's Thanksgiving holiday, two million people passed through TSA checkpoints between Thursday, Nov. 19 and Saturday, Nov 21.

The holiday travel is happening as the United States has hit a record 20 straight days of 100,000 new coronavirus infections.

Medical staffer Tanna Ingraham checks the I.V. on a patient in the COVID-19 intensive care unit at the United Memorial Medical Center in Houston, Texas. According to reports, Texas has reached

over 1,140,000 coronavirus cases, including over 20,600 deaths.

According to CNN, more than three million new cases of COVID-19 have been reported during November, says data from Johns Hopkins University.

That total represents a quarter of all U.S. cases since the beginning of the pandemic.

At least 83,221 coronavirus patients were hospitalized on Sunday. Reports are that number represents the 12th straight day that the U.S. has broken hospitalization records.

The Thanksgiving holiday and colder weather has noted health professionals worried that indoor socializing will cause cases to continue to rise.



(Photo by Go Nakamura/Getty Images)

Pa Supreme Court rejects request for President Trump's desperate legal battle

By Viviane Faver Philadelphiaobserver.com

On Monday, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court rejected Trump's request to block the counting of votes with missing dates or names, paving the way for 10,000 votes to be counted in Philadelphia and Allegheny counties.

President-elect Joe Biden leads the state of Keystone by more than 81,000 votes.

According to Judge Christine Donohue, it was concluded that, although the failure to include a handwritten name, address, or date in the voter's declaration on the back of the outer envelope, while constituting technical violations of the Electoral Code, this does not guarantee the mass deprivation of thousands of voters of Pennsylvania.

The decision confirms the first instance decision that allowed 8,329 absent votes to be counted and sent by post that arrived until 8:00 pm. on election day in Philadelphia County, but there were no handwritten names, addresses, or dates.

The court also overturned a first instance decision that rejected 2,349 ballots that were signed but had undated statements, erasing

one of Trump's previous campaign victories.

The Federal Supreme Court reinstated an earlier decision that allowed the counting of votes. The judges considered that the defects did not justify the ballots' invalidation as there was no fraud or illegality.

The majority court decision is most sane against President Donald Trump's continued efforts to challenge election results in several states, including Pennsylvania.

Since election day, there have been only two victories in the courts for Republicans over a minimum number of votes, and more legal losses are likely on the horizon as the campaign continues its efforts.

On Sunday, a federal judge rejected another lawsuit that sought to invalidate millions of Pennsylvania votes in what was essentially the last major case that sought to reject or block enough votes that could rock a critical state in favor of Trump.

Despite all these implications, the Trump campaign insists on blocking Pennsylvania certification

The Trump campaign asked a federal appeals court for a temporary restraining order to sus-



pend Pennsylvania's certification of the presidential election days after a first instance judge wrote a well-formulated opinion comparing the campaign process to the "Frankenstein monster. . . stitched haphazardly."

The lawyer for the Trump campaign said the campaign "will suffer irreparable damage if the requested limited measure – a short stay of certification (or its legal effect if certification has already occurred) – is not provided already that the relief will not interfere with the nomination of voters for the candidate who obtained the highest number of legal votes before the haven of December 8."

According to lawyer Marc A. Scaringi, it would be unscrupulous to allow Pennsylvania to certify voters for Biden and then discover that Trump won the dispute and

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Georgia voters will decide fate of senate and a new south

By Jesse Jackson
Opinion

On Jan. 5, Georgia voters will decide the runoff for their two U.S. Senate seats. Their votes will determine whether Republicans retain control of the Senate or whether Democrats gain a 50-50 tie, with Vice President Kamala Harris the tiebreaking vote.

The race is a microcosm of America's struggle to find a way forward and of Georgia and the South's struggle to build a new South. The two Democratic challengers reflect the new age still waiting to be born. Rev. Raphael Warnock, senior pastor at Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church, the congregation led by the late Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., is a distinguished heir to the King tradition.

Thirty-three-year-old Jon Ossoff, educated at Georgetown and the London School of Economics, was born and raised in Atlanta, interned for the late Rep. John Lewis and served as a national security staffer to Rep. Hank Johnson. He has been CEO of Insight TWI, a London based documentary maker that focuses on detailing corruption in foreign countries.

Both Rev. Warnock and Ossoff have put forth a moderate platform for change. Both support immediate action to forestall an economic collapse as the pandemic spikes. With Republicans blocking action in the Senate, millions now face an end to unemployment insurance, an end to the eviction moratorium — with one-third of households behind on their rent or mortgages — and an end to the student debt moratorium, with millions of young people still struggling to find jobs. Without assistance, states and localities will be forced to cut services and lay off employees like teachers and firefighters.

Both Warnock and Ossoff support strengthening the Affordable Care Act by adding a public option and reducing prescription drug prices but oppose Medicare for All. Both call for bold action to deal with the reality of catastrophic climate change but oppose the

Green New Deal. Both are for lifting the minimum wage, and for assistance to small businesses. Their Republican opponents are the sitting senators — Kelly Loeffler and David Perdue. Both Loeffler and Perdue are multimillionaires. Both were charged with insider trading, selling stocks after receiving private briefings on the threat posed by the pandemic. Both dubiously claimed that their advisers made the trades without their knowledge.

Both tout themselves as Donald Trump supporters. They oppose the Affordable Care Act, and support alternatives that would leave hundreds of thousands of Georgians without health care. Both, lavishly supported by oil and gas interests, refuse to consider climate change a major threat. Loeffler, the co-owner of the Atlanta Dream, a women's professional basketball team, loudly denounced support given to the Black Lives Matter movement, leading her players to wear T-shirts saying Vote Warnock. Neither Perdue nor Loeffler bother to offer a serious agenda to address the problems that Georgians face. They joined Republican leader Mitch McConnell in blocking the rescue act in the midst of the pandemic.

Neither Loeffler nor Perdue have a clue or a care for working for poor people in Georgia. So how do they hope to get elected? Both have adopted the same strategy: echo Donald Trump's divisive race-based populism and benefit from systematic suppression of the vote. They've booked nearly \$200 million in vicious attack ads against their opponents, painting them as a threat to all things American.

Perdue falsely paints Ossoff as a "radical socialist." In a classic anti-Semitic trope, Perdue's campaign released an ad that lengthened Ossoff's nose. Loeffler paints Warnock as a "radical" who will "change this country forever," nonsensically promoting herself as the "firewall in stopping socialism in America." In her stump speech, in less than 45 seconds, she wildly links the distinguished minister to Obama's minister Rev. Jeremiah

Wright, Fidel Castro, George Soros, and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. Loeffler and Perdue won't admit that Joe Biden won the presidential election, nor that he won Georgia. Adopting Donald Trump's baseless claims of fraud, they wrote a joint letter calling for the resignation of the Georgia secretary of state, a conservative Republican supporter of Donald Trump.

He scorned the demand as "laughable." What isn't laughable is the long lines that black voters had to suffer in order to cast a vote in the primaries and November election. For years, Georgia — controlled by Republicans — has passed various measures to suppress the votes of minorities and the young, including gerrymandering districts, requiring photo ID, aggressive purging of voter rolls, and more. Notably, as the electorate has grown by over 2 million in the last seven years, Georgia has reduced the number of voting places by 10 percent. This has had a disproportionate effect on young and nonwhite voters whose registrations have surged. The contrasting campaigns make it clear that a vote for Loeffler or Perdue is a vote for continued dysfunction and obstruction.

A victory by either would further commit Republicans to Donald Trump's toxic use of race-based division, lies and calumnies to divide working people, gaining victories for those who serve the rich and corporations. Two of the wealthiest senators, Loeffler and Perdue personify the con. Neither America nor Georgia can move forward until the growing majority that is desperate for change overcomes the systematic efforts to divide and suppress.

This country cannot begin to address the threats it faces - the pandemic, the economic collapse, corrosive and extreme inequality, catastrophic climate change, racial inequity, growing insecurity and a declining middle class - until those standing in the way are defeated. Loeffler says the "future of the country is at stake on January 5." Of her many delusions, that one may be the closest to the truth.



President-Elect Biden names all-women senior communications staff

Fills out staff with women of color; Black men nominated for key posts

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire

It isn't often a politician running for office keeps his campaign promise.

Since defeating Donald Trump, Joe Biden has so far lived up to his promise of a diverse senior staff and cabinet.

The Democrat, who openly has recognized the critical role African Americans and women played in helping him to garner a record of more than 80 million votes, on Monday, November 30, 2020, named an-all women senior communications staff - including three Black women.

On Monday, Darrell Blocker appeared on his way to being nominated by Biden as the nation's first African American CIA director.

"I am proud to announce today the first senior White House communications team comprised entirely of women. These qualified, experienced communicators bring diverse perspectives to their work and a shared commitment to building this country back better," Biden said in a statement.

Symone Sanders, an African American and a senior Biden campaign adviser will serve as a senior adviser and chief spokesperson for the vice president.

Ashley Etienne, an African American and senior adviser on the Biden campaign, will serve as communications director for Vice-President-Elect Kamala Harris.

Karine Jean-Pierre, a senior adviser on the Biden campaign who later served as chief of staff to Harris and who is also Black, will serve as principal deputy press secretary.

Former Barack Obama White House communications director Jen Psaki will serve as press secretary, while Kate Bedingfield, who served as deputy campaign manager and communications director for the campaign, will be White House communications director.

Pili Tobar, who served as the communications director for coalitions on the campaign, will serve as deputy White House communications director.

Additionally, Biden was said to learn toward a nomination of Adewale "Wally" Adeyemo to serve as Deputy Treasury Secretary.

If confirmed, Adeyemo, the current president of the Obama Foundation in Chicago, would be the first Black person to hold that

powerful position.

The Biden/Harris team has also selected Cecilia Rouse to lead the Council of Economic Advisers.

This appointment would make Rouse the first woman of color to chair the council.

In what could be another historic nomination, many believe that Biden is set to name Darrell Blocker the first African American CIA director.

Blocker has spent about 30 years at the CIA, so experience isn't a question. He started as an analyst with the Air Force before joining the CIA, taking on various undercover assignments.

"My clandestine activities were enhanced by being viewed as a singer, because who would ever think that one could be both?" Blocker told ABC News in a 2019 interview.

"That is a leap too far for most, and I honestly feel that it kept me safer by being in plain sight."

Biden and Harris also announced they are forming a Presidential Inaugural Committee (PIC) to organize activities surrounding their swearing-in on January 20, 2021, announcing the initial senior leadership team who will lead PIC and unveiling its online presence.

The selections, which include two African Americans, and all individuals of color include:

Tony Allen, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer

The President of Delaware State University (DSU), one of the nation's premiere public Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Before being appointed President, Dr. Allen served as Executive Vice President and Provost at DSU and previously led Bank of America's corporate reputation group.

He is also the Founding President of the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League and co-Founder of Public Allies Delaware. In the 90's, Allen worked in then-Senator Biden's office as a Special Assistant and Speechwriter.

Maju Varghese, Executive Director

Chief Operating Officer and Senior Advisor on the Biden-Harris campaign from the primaries through the general, overseeing the campaign's day-to-day operations and leading the entire campaign through an unprecedented shift to remote working.

Varghese previously served in the Obama White House in various roles, including Assistant to the President for Management and Administration and Deputy Director of Advance.

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Stacey Abrams says 750,000 Georgia residents have requested ballots for runoff

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Voting rights advocate Stacey Abrams said Monday that more than 750,000 residents in Georgia have requested a ballot for the state's two Senate runoffs.

Abrams, the founder of Fair Fight and former Georgia Governor Democratic candidate, made the announcement in a Twitter post and added a link for more voters to request a ballot. Abrams is considered the biggest reason President-elect Joe Biden became the first Democrat to win the state since Bill Clinton. Fair Fight was instrumental in Biden's election as it got more than 800,000 people in the state registered to vote.

The two Georgia Senate runoffs, which will take place Jan. 5, are expected to bring in hundreds of millions of dollars in funding as control of the government is at stake. Republicans Kelly Loeffler, who sold stock after a coronavirus briefing and expressed an anti-BLM stance this summer, will go against Reverend Raphael Warnock in one runoff. In



the second runoff, David Perdue, who already said he won't participate in a debate before the January 5 runoff, will take on former investigative reporter Jon Ossoff.

If Democrats win both races it will give them full control of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. If Republicans win one or both races, it will give Republicans control of the Senate, limiting what Democrats can do during Biden's term.



America Cohee-Webster, circa 1965, left, and Willie Cohee, circa 1896 (via NBC News/ Courtesy Rhonda Grayson)

Black Native American descendants fight for recognition

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Many Black Creeks who tried to re-enroll into the tribe have been denied **Rhonda Grayson**, a Black Creek Native American of Oklahoma, is one of many tribal descendants who are actively fighting to regain their citizenship in the Creek tribe.

In Okmulgee, Oklahoma, there are more than 86,000 citizens enrolled in the Creek Nation—one of the largest recognized tribes in the United States.

Grayson, 51, told NBC News that she was aware of both

her Black and Native heritage growing up in Wewoka. Her great grandmother of Black Creek descent was named America Cohee.

According to NBC News, Cohee was originally enrolled in the tribe and for generations, fellow Black Creeks like her were recognized until one day, it came to an end.

Alaina E. Roberts, assistant history professor at the University of Pittsburgh, noted that the tribe capitalized on chattel slavery in the late 1700s.

“The tribe really began to pick up on Black enslavement,” Roberts said.

AG James defends census against Trump admin attack at Supreme Court

New York and other immigrant-rich states stand to lose representation in congress and in electoral college if Trump Administration policy is implemented

Before the United States Supreme Court, New York Attorney General Letitia James will lead a large coalition of states, cities, and counties in arguing against President Donald Trump’s attempts, once again, to illegally leave millions of undocumented immigrants out of the apportionment base that establishes the number of members in the House of Representatives that each state receives. Despite numerous losses in its efforts to politicize the 2020 Decennial Census, the Trump Administration is seeking to again violate basic constitutional and statutory commands. Attorney General James will lead the coalition to argue that the administration must count the “whole number of persons” residing in the country for apportionment, as the U.S. Constitution and the Census Act unambiguously require.

“President Trump’s illegal proclamation is the latest in a long list of anti-immigrant actions and statements he has made since the beginning of his first campaign,” said Attorney General James. “The U.S. Constitution and the Census Act are crystal clear — every person residing in the U.S. during the census, regardless of legal status, must be counted. And despite this lame-duck president’s repeated attempts to politicize the census and strip immigrant-rich states, like New York, of representation,



the simple truth is that no one ceases to be a person because they lack documentation or ceases to live here because the president would prefer them to leave; that’s why we filed this lawsuit and numerous others like it before. We will continue to do whatever is necessary to stop the president from putting politics above the law.”

In July, Attorney General James led a coalition of states, cities, and counties in filing a lawsuit against President Trump, Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross, and others after they announced that they would leave millions of undocumented immigrants out of the apportionment base that follows the decennial census count. The lawsuit sought to stop the Trump Administration from violating the longstanding constitutional and statutory requirements to count the “whole number of persons”

residing in each state for apportionment, without regard to immigration status. In August, Attorney General James filed a motion for summary judgment in the case, which was granted in September by a three-judge court that stated that the president’s plan to exclude undocumented immigrants from the apportionment base was unlawful.

In today’s argument, Attorney General James will argue that excluding undocumented immigrants from the apportionment base will lead to the loss of congressional seats and presidential electors in the electoral college, especially for immigrant-rich states, like New York, as well as degrade the quality of census data that states and local jurisdictions rely on to perform critical governmental functions. Additionally,

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More Black ex-franchisees join racial discrimination lawsuit against McDonald’s

Total number of plaintiffs approaching 80

Twenty seven new plaintiffs, all former Black McDonald’s franchisees, joined an on-going federal lawsuit against the fast-food chain claiming the company engaged in systemic discrimination and denied them the same opportunities as White franchisees.

The new amended complaint now has 77 named plaintiffs in the lawsuit originally filed by 52 Black former franchisees on Sept. 1, 2020.

The claims now include nearly 300 stores with compensatory damages that average between \$4m and \$5m per store, exclusive of punitive damages.

The plaintiffs allege McDonald’s sold itself as a recruiter and developer of Black talent, profited from its Black consumer base and maintained a two-tier system that pigeonholed unsuspecting Black owners and assigned them horrible locations guaranteed to fail.

This suit comes on the heels of a federal class action lawsuit filed October 29 by current Black franchisees. “McDonald’s is now fighting a four-front legal war.

They are being sued by current and former Black operators, Black employees and senior executives,” said James L. Ferraro, the lead attorney for both the current and former franchisee lawsuits. “As the pool of plaintiffs grows, there will be more pressure on the company to dispense with the public relations ploys and focus on how it can help its Black employees and franchisees.”

At the same time there are calls for state pension funds to drop McDonald’s stock. States like New York, California, Ohio and Florida have massive investments in McDonald’s. In Tennessee, Rep. Joe Towns has requested Treasurer David H. Lillard to divest the state’s holdings and reallocate the money toward companies “practicing good corporate citizenship.” Ferraro said all these challenges are coming together because the company has turned a blind eye to obvious racial problems while promoting its public image.

McDonald’s once boasted a high of 377 Black franchisees in 1998. That number now stands at 186 even though McDonald’s has increased its stores from 15,086 to 36,059. The cash flow gap for Black



McDonald’s Franchisees Darryl Byrd & James F. Byrd

franchisees more than tripled from 2010 to 2019, per National Black McDonald’s Operators Association (“NBMOA”) data.

Plaintiffs’ average annual sales of \$2 million was more than \$700,000 under McDonald’s national average of \$2.7 million between 2011 and 2016 and \$900,000 under the national average of \$2.9 million in 2019.

The lawsuit claims McDonald’s was ruthless in steering Black

operators toward the oldest, most decrepit stores in the toughest neighborhoods routinely rejected by White franchisees. This severely limited opportunities for expansion and growth and far too often set in place a chain of events –low cash flow, decreased equity, debt and bankruptcy—that led to financial ruin.

The plaintiffs argue McDonald’s violated federal civil rights laws by: -

- Excluding Black franchisees from the same growth opportunities found at safer, higher-volume, lower-cost stores offered to Whites.

- Retaliating against Black franchisees for rejecting strong-arm offers to continue operations in crime-ridden neighborhoods.

- Denying Black franchisees meaningful assistance during financial hardships while White franchisees were routinely given such support.-

- Failing to provide any legitimate business reasons for repeated denials of franchise opportunities over many years. -

- Unfairly grading the operations of Black restaurants, which resulted in poor internal reviews, effectively pushing Black franchisees out of the McDonald’s system by denying them the eligibility for growth and favorable franchise terms.-

- Providing misleading projections which induced Black franchisees to purchase undesirable franchises.

The amended complaint was filed with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois Eastern Division.

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Editorial - Opinion

Biden-Harris admin tasked with dismantling America's history of hate

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire

A lot of past cruelties can underscore America's history of hate.

Today, one could capture that hate through the lens of at least some of the more than 74 million people casting a vote for President Donald Trump.

Often described as a racist, chauvinist, and one whose policies separated immigrant children from their parents and put them in cages along the Southern U.S. border, Trump supposedly embodies the very qualities that much of America — including many of its major corporations and our next-door neighbors — protested against when they

Yet, he received the second-highest vote count of any presidential candidate in history.

Even now, Trump and his campaign have specifically sought to have officials toss out many of the votes that were legitimately cast in heavily African American-populated cities like Atlanta, Detroit, and Milwaukee. Ironically, their actions would include disenfranchising thousands of Republicans whose votes were also submitted by other means than in person at a polling place.

In the specific instance of the effect on the Black vote, seeking ways to deny African American voters our Constitutional right to make our voice known at the ballot box is a tactic used since, during, and after Reconstruction.

African Americans have not been alone on the receiving end of our nation's history of hate-driven actions.

"The history of the United States over the past 200 years has been largely a struggle to define who might enjoy the rights and privileges of full citizenship," offered Sarah Silkey, a professor of History at Lycoming College in Williamsport, Penn.

"Each successive gain made in broadening the definition of American citizenship was quickly followed by a backlash. Jim Crow segregation, the convict lease system, redlining, the war on

drugs, and other systems created to maintain white supremacy denied access to full citizenship for generations of Americans," Silkey wrote in an email.

"By defining personal success solely as a product of individual initiative and effort, the popular myth of the American Dream served to reinforce white privilege, perpetuate damaging racial stereotypes, and absolve white politicians from responsibility for dismantling entrenched systems of inequality," she added.

"The crises of 2020 exposed vast inequities of health, wealth, safety, and political access to a broader cross-section of the American public. That growing public awareness of systemic inequalities has created an opportunity for the next administration to enact meaningful change," Silkey concluded.

As American families prepare for another Thanksgiving, many are left to ponder just what they should celebrate.

"The US was built on powerful myths of equal opportunity in the pursuit of happiness and the city on a shining hill. The reality was less uplifting," observed Nora V. Demleitner, a Roy L. Steinheimer Jr. Professor of Law at Washington and Lee University in Lexington City, Va.

"Racism, racial exclusion of immigrants, and the vilification of ethnic and religious groups have long been an integral part of US history," Demleitner posited.

"There has been substantial progress in the creation and enforcement of civil rights for all especially during the civil rights era, yet it has been uneven, and rising economic inequality and the impact of climate change threaten to undermine some of that progress."

The playbooks of racial and ethnic vilification were never entirely discarded.

They are coming back as seen in the demand for "law and order," widespread suppression of minority voters, and unwillingness to invest in infrastructure and education to support all, Demleitner offered further.

Tim Powell, a University of Chi-

cago journalism master's student, discards the myth of an America that welcomes labeling as a melting pot.

"Consider that the colonists left England to rebel against religion, and when they arrived here, we had a colony of rebels to some degree," Powell relayed.

"The administrations can only do so much to counter the inherent unacceptance of races by a white, male American. It will be up to the next generations that will determine the acceptance of differences."

"The best administrations will be those that do not stoke division.

"Look at McCarthyism as an example of the people demanding we rid America of 'communists.' It was not McCarthy himself, but the people demanding it. Without a market, a leader of a campaign — like Trump's immorality — the leader has no followers."

The 14th Amendment was meant to give slaves — only slaves — equal protection of the law, Powell added.

However, in nearly all relevant court cases since 1860 — Plessy, San Mateo v. Southern Pacific, Citizens United, Hobby Lobby — it has rarely given Amendment protections to Blacks but to corporations and other entities deemed as 'persons.' Photographer Michael Freeby expressed that, "It's not just the kids in cages, as if that weren't bad enough."

"Let us not forget ICE abducts perfectly law-abiding citizens in the middle of the night, performs cruel unethical unasked for surgeries on them, and that a disproportionate number of coronavirus deaths have been taking place in ICE captivity."

"As a Mexican who lives close to ICE's headquarters at the USA/Mexico border, it especially sends chills down my spine," Freeby objected.

"Once people are placed in ICE captivity, they lose all rights. We are the United States of America, a country whose entire premise was based on people fleeing from elsewhere to start fresh and pursue their dreams. Picking and choosing based on skin color is not right. We



are not animals — we are people."

Terrell L. Strayhorn, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at Virginia Union University, where he also serves as Professor of Education and Director of the Center for the Study of HBCUs, noted that African Americans are the only group denied access to education by law.

"No matter how uncomfortable or unpopular to admit, it was once legal to punish or kill an African American, but you could not educate them," Strayhorn submitted.

"Teaching Blacks to read and write was prohibited by law. In the year 2020, there are over 4,300 colleges and universities in the United States, collectively enrolling over 20 million college students. Virtually 2 million are African Americans, with the vast majority (two-thirds) being Black women.

"And when African Americans enroll in college, approximately half do not graduate, accrue high amounts of educational debt, or report experiencing hostile, unwelcoming environments at predominantly white institutions."

Strayhorn asked that the incoming Joe Biden/Kamala Harris administration do all it could to reduce, or remove, those challenges.

"A new administration, comprised of individuals who reflect the diversity of their constituents, can champion culturally-relevant initiatives, create equity, and foster racial healing," Strayhorn proposed.

As a Black and Indian American, a plan of Kamala Harris should include equality for Black women in the workplace, opined Dr. Carey Yazeed, the editor of the anthology, "Shut 'em Down: Black Women, Racism and Corporate America."

"Malcolm X stated it best, 'The most disrespected person

in America is the Black Woman. The most unprotected person in America is the Black Woman.' This country has done little to help uplift Black women, yet we are the ones who continuously come to its rescue," Dr. Yazeed remarked.

"Although Black women are often the lowest paid in Corporate America, we often outwork and outperform our peers in the workplace," she continued.

"When corporations talk about diversity and inclusion, Black women are usually excluded from those conversations, which is reflected in our salaries and how we are treated. Black women often walk away from Corporate America traumatized by the racial injustices that they endure and are left to carry that pain around for years."

Actress and mental health advocate Samantina Zenon concluded that many white people remain disconnected, still seeing African Americans as maids or even slaves.

"History continues to rewrite itself. In every avenue, Black people consistently get mistreated," Zenon said.

"In order for real changes to happen, the new administration needs to give more Black people a platform to be seen and heard, not just Black celebrities or politicians.

"Real people who face daily challenges for being Black in America. Part of the narrative on their campaigns was Donald Trump divided the country and has given white supremacists a platform to be racist, and they want to bring us back together. While that is true, the new administration needs to be held accountable for making those changes because Black people showed up for them at the polls, make racism wrong again.

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Pa Supreme Court rejects request for President Trump's desperate legal battle

From page 2

allow the continuation of certification to ratify the results of an invalid and constitutionally weak electoral process before this case can be heard over its merits.

He added that if Pennsylvania's vote count — including illegal ballots — is certified and not suspended to allow for a meaningful review, electoral votes will be attributed to Biden. If the Claimants

later prove that the election was invalid, unfair, unevenly administered, and included illegal ballots' tabulation, their victory will be for Pyrrhus.

In his motion, Trump's campaign attorney cited Bush v's decision. Gore said that "the right to vote as the legislature has prescribed is fundamental," writing that "the defendants not only failed to administer the 2020 presidential election in the manner

prescribed by the legislature, but the Defendants violated the equal protection of the Claimants and due process rights to favor Biden over Trump."

"Unless any legal effects of certification are suspended, Claimants can be left without a remedy because Pennsylvania's electoral votes for president and vice president can be attributed to someone else," the document said.



Former student sues Illinois High School for blatant, widespread racism

Philadelphiaobserver.com

A former student has sued an Illinois high school, citing multiple racist incidents he experienced and observed during his time at the school.

According to CBS Chicago, 19-year-old Stanley Fabian observed and personally experienced multiple instances of racism during his time at Minooka Community High School. Fabian recounted an incident he experienced last year as a senior at the school, when a white student brought an oversized cookie into the classroom.

"When I jokingly reached for it – he was at the front of the class – he turned around and said, 'If you touch that cookie cake, I'm

going to lynch you,'" Fabian told the news outlet. "I didn't even know how to respond. It was like a deer-in-the-headlights kind of moment."

Bruh, I don't care if the kid was a teenager, threatening to lynch someone over a cookie cake is an offense worthy of being stomped. No one should be threatening to lynch anyone, period. Doing so over a cookie cake, makes you simultaneously racist and a punk-bitch.

A Trump, if you will.

While the incident was shocking for Fabian, it wasn't exactly unexpected. "For four years, I've heard multiple slurs being thrown around towards African-American students, Mexican students," Fa-

bian said.

Fabian's mother, TeSaxton Washington, told CBS Chicago that while the student who made the threat was eventually suspended, the response from the school is what spurred the family to take legal action. "It was apparent from day one that this was not something that they were really going to treat seriously," Washington told CBS Chicago.

Washington said she felt more confident in filing the suit after speaking to the parents of other students who have experienced similar incidents. "This was not just his story," Washington told the news outlet. "In fact, this is something that has been going on for at least five decades."

Pope Francis shows support for George Floyd protests in new book

ROME (AP) — Pope Francis is supporting demands for racial justice in the wake of the U.S. police killing of George Floyd and is blasting COVID-19 skeptics and the media that spread their conspiracies in a new book penned during the Vatican's coronavirus lockdown.

In "Let Us Dream," Francis also criticizes populist politicians who whip up rallies in ways reminiscent of the 1930s, and the hypocrisy of "rigid" conservative Catholics who support them. But he also criticizes the forceful downing of historic statues during protests for racial equality this year as a misguided attempt to "purify the past."

The 150-page book, due out Dec. 1, was ghost-written by Francis' English-language biographer, Austen Ivereigh, and at times the prose and emphasis seems almost more Ivereigh's than Francis'.

At its core, "Let Us Dream" aims to outline Francis' vision of a more economically and environmentally just post-coronavirus world where



the poor, the elderly and weak aren't left on the margins and the wealthy aren't consumed only with profits.

But it also offers new personal insights into the 83-year-old Argentine pope and his sense of humor.

President-Elect Biden names all-women senior communications staff

From page 3

He has also worked as the Chief Operating Officer at The Hub Project and a Senior Advisor at the law firm Dentons.

Erin Wilson, Deputy Executive Director

Wilson served as the Biden-Harris campaign's National Political Director throughout the primary and general elections, the senior staff member responsible for relationships with hundreds of elected officials and leaders across the country.

Previously, Wilson was a senior aide in Pennsylvania Senator Bob Casey's office, most recently serving as his State Director and Senior Advisor to his 2018 reelection. She is also a Hillary for America and Democratic National Committee alumna.

Ben Crump to announce suit against local Jacksonville HOA for harassment over Black Lives Matter

Philadelphiaobserver.com

*JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Nationally renowned civil rights and personal injury attorney Ben Crump; co-counsels Matthew Dietz and David Cronin; Keenya Robertson, National Fair Housing Alliance Chairperson; and Antoine Mickle will hold a virtual news conference on Nov. 24 at 11 a.m. ET to announce a federal lawsuit against River Point Community Association, River City Management Services, Shantell Hughes (community president), and Sharleen Thompson-Messinese (property manager).

On Oct. 20, 2020, Mickle, a homeowner and resident of the River Point community in Jackson-

ville, Florida, received a letter from the River Point Community Association advising him that the Black Lives Matter flag displayed on his property was in violation of the community's rules and was considered a "nuisance." Although there were many other flags displayed throughout the community including those in support of sports teams, the Trump campaign, and Blue Lives Matter, the owners of those flags did not receive any letters of reprimand and were not asked to remove them from their properties. It is evident from the Association's actions that Mickle was harassed and discriminated against because of his race and support of the Black Lives Matter movement.



Florida county mayor proposes task force to fight systemic racism

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The mayor of Florida's Broward County has proposed a task force that would address issues of systemic racism.

The South Florida Sun-Sentinel reports that the proposal is the third from Broward County Mayor Dale Holness that attempts to address the issue of systemic racism. Holness previously proposed a police review board that would analyze the behaviors of law enforcement, as well as expanding the county's human rights protections to include ethnic hairstyles.

Holness' latest proposal is the creation of a racial equity task force that, according to county records, would take "concrete steps to dismantle identified systemic racism and create greater racial equity in Broward County." The task force would respond to complaints from the public, "written or otherwise," and would consist of up to 34 members.

Members of the task force would include Black Lives Matter activists, the Broward County Chiefs of Police Association, the New Florida Majority, members of academia, as well as a defense attorney, and prosecutor.



"We've seen the huge disparities that exist within our societies," Holness told the Sun-Sentinel. "It's a matter of how we fix it."

I'm very curious about how the task force will work, and the exact solutions that it would propose. As we should all know, racism is more than just someone dropping a foul slur. It's...an attitude. Are all of the solutions going to boil down to John Cena hitting the offender with an attitude adjustment?

On the scene

Taraji P. Henson stuns as host of 2020 American Music Awards

By Audrey J. Bernard

Taraji P. Henson electrified the virtual **American Music Awards (AMA)** show broadcast live from The Microsoft Theatre in Los Angeles, Sunday, November 22, 2020, which was seen in more than 200 countries and territories around the world. The beautiful first-time host went through 9 fabulous changes as she sang, danced and performed short skits to the amusement of the socially distanced audience

which is no small feat without the comfort of a live audience! I'm sure AMA will bring her back for a return performance next year. The show was filled with stunning performances and few surprises. On the award side, **The Weekend**, **Taylor Swift**, **Justin Bieber** and **Dan+Shay** won 3 awards each. **BTS**, **Nicki Minaj**, and **Doja Cat** won 2 awards. On the performance side, the high energy show featured tour de force performances from many stars including fan favs

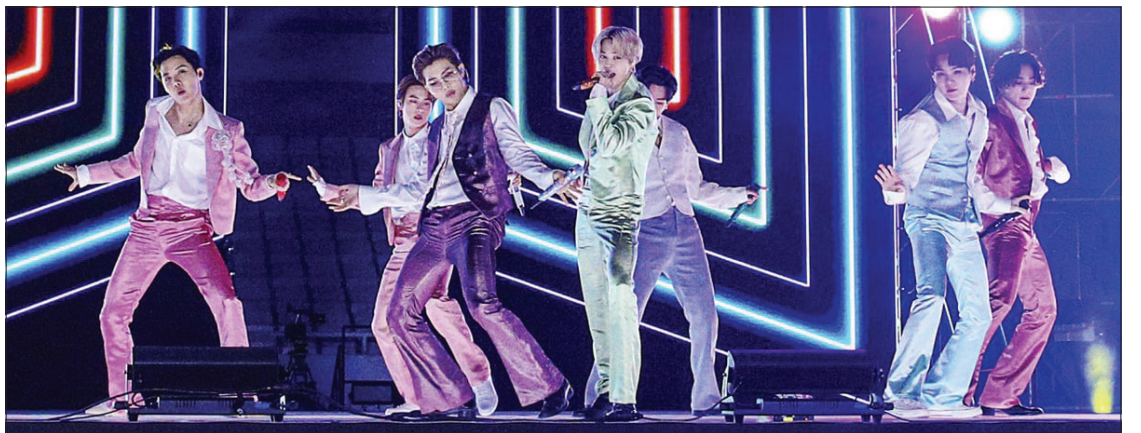
Hip-Hop/R&B legends, **Bell Biv DeVoe**, also **Megan Thee** who performed her new song "Body" and won an AMA with **Cardi B** for their "WAP" song, **Justin Bieber & Shawn Mendes**, **Jennifer Lopez & Maluma** turning the heat up all the way up with a sexy performance of their new music, **Billie Elish & Finneas**, **Rapper Nelly**, **Lewis Capaldi**, **Dua Lipa**, **Machine Gun Kelly & drummer Travis Barker**, **Dan+Shay**, **24KGoldn + Iann Dior**, **Lil Baby**, **Bebe Rexha** and **Doja Cat**.

However, it was **The Weekend** who set fire to the show with 2 explosive performances – "In Your Eyes" featuring legendary saxophonist **Kenny G** and "After Hours." The singer literally lit up one of the city's famous bridges in Downtown Los Angeles over the Los Angeles River just blocks away from the venue with a vibrant fireworks display cleverly created as he walked along the bridge while cascades of pyrotechnic sparklers burst into the sky around him. The quintessential Korean group **BTS**

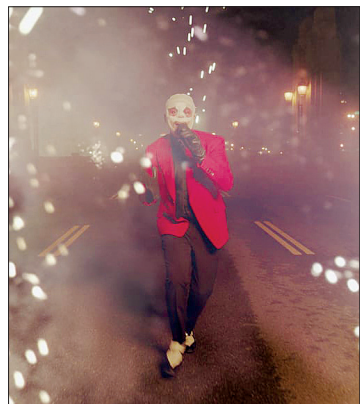
closed out the night from Seoul, South Korea with high energy performances of "Life Goes On" and "Dynamite." The "2020 American Music Awards" is produced by Dick Clark Productions. Amy Thurlow, Barry Adelman, Mark Bracco, and Linda Gierahn are executive producers. Larry Klein is producer. The "2020 American Music Awards" is sponsored by Cheetos, T-Mobile and Xfinity. **Here's the complete 2020 American Music Awards winners list. (Photos by Getty Images for AMA)**



Taraji P. Henson



BTS performs



The Weekend Wows with fireworks display



Nelly & his band perform (Photo by Just Jared)



Bell Biv DeVoe



Jennifer Lopez



Doja Cat



Dan & Shay



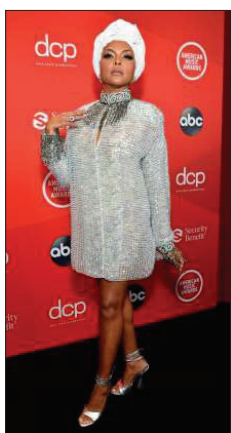
Nelly



Becky G



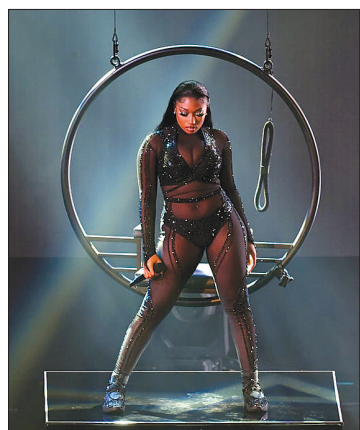
Laverne Cox



Taraji P. Henson



Lil Baby



MeganThee Stallion performs



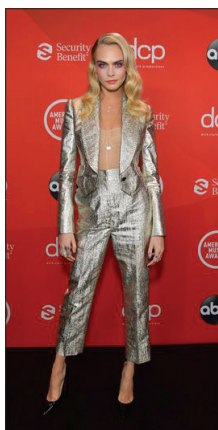
Ciara



Anthony Anderson



24kGoldn



Cara Delevingne



Maluma



Megan Thee Stallion (Just Jared)

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International

Nigeria cracks down on 'End Sars' protesters, alleging terrorism

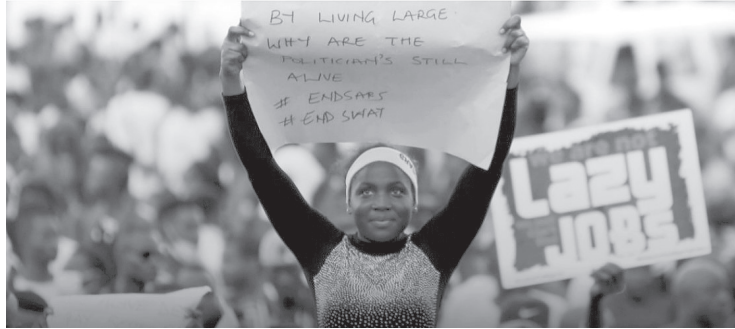
Philadelphiaobserver.com

Nigerian authorities have cracked down on "end Sars" protesters, charging prominent supporters of financing terrorism and sanctioning coverage of recent abuses by security forces.

Authorities have suspended the bank accounts of prominent supporters, fined media agencies accused of "exaggerated reporting" of police abuses — including broadcasting graphic footage of soldiers gunning down protesters in Lagos last month — and conducted arrests of demonstrators.

Nigerian authorities appear to have used coercive financial measures to suppress protests against police brutality and independent media reporting, Human Rights Watch said in a report published on Friday.

Twenty individuals and entities, judged as prominent supporters of "End Sars" protests against the since-disbanded, infamously brutal special anti-robbery squad, have had their accounts suspended by Nigerian banks, preventing them from receiving funds. On



4 November, the Central Bank of Nigeria obtained a court order authorizing it to block the accounts for 90 days.

Those targeted had been raising or received money in support of protests that had erupted across Nigeria last month, providing medical and legal aid for injured and arrested demonstrators, grants for journalists to cover police and army abuses at the protests, and help to families of those killed during the demonstrations.

Lawyers for Nigeria's Central Bank argued in court this week that the account-holders were involved in "suspected terrorism financing."

Among the accounts suspended was Gatefield, a public policy organization that had offered financial assistance to journalists covering the demonstrations, its founder, Adewunmi Emoruwa, said.

"We were providing financial and technical support to independent journalists and media organizations to report on police brutality and to document the protests. But then the government restricted Gatefield's account through a back-channel instruction to Access Bank. The idea is to create a media blackout in a bid to cover up the various atrocities committed by the state against the peaceful protesters," he said.



Diego Maradona is lying in honor at Argentina's presidential palace

(CNN)

Diego Maradona is lying in honor for public viewing at Argentina's presidential palace, Casa Rosada, following his death aged 60.

Hundreds of fans congregated at the palace in Buenos Aires after the doors opened for the general public at 6 a.m. local time on Thursday.

President Alberto Fernandez has already declared three days of mourning to honor Maradona — a national hero in Argentina widely regarded as one of the greatest

football players of all time.

Maradona died from heart failure, a source from the Argentinian Justice Ministry present at the time of the autopsy told CNN en Espanol on Wednesday.

Earlier this month, he underwent successful surgery for a subdural hematoma, more commonly known as a blood clot on the brain.

According to a press release from the attorney investigating the death, Maradona's nephew Jonatan Espósito was the last person to see him alive on Tuesday.

AG James defends census against Trump admin attack at Supreme Court

From page 4

excluding immigrants can reduce resources to state and local jurisdictions.

The U.S. Constitution and Census Act clearly state that, for purposes of apportioning members of the House of Representatives among the states, every person residing in the U.S. on Census Day — April 1 this past year — must be counted. But, in July, President Trump declared, in a presidential memorandum, his intent to exclude undocumented immigrants from the apportionment base — the first time such action has been taken in the nation's history.

Specifically, Article I Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution says representatives shall be apportioned among states according to their respective numbers. The major exception to this rule was the Three-Fifths Compromise, which was instituted to resolve disputes over how and whether slaves would be included in a state's total count. The compromise counted each slave as only three-fifths of any other person, specifically limiting the number of representatives and electoral-college votes — and essentially the power — of states with large slave populations.

In 1868, after the Civil War ended and when slaves were finally free, the Fourteenth Amendment was adopted to provide equal protection under the law to all persons, including former slaves, stating that "Representatives shall be apportioned among the

several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State..." The framers deliberately chose the phrase "whole number of persons" to refer to all persons living in each state — including the entire immigrant population.

When the framers made this change, they could have chosen to add language that would allow undocumented immigrants to be left out of the apportionment base, but they didn't. Since that time, more than 150 years of history, practice, and judicial and administrative precedents have since established that the apportionment of representatives must be based on all persons living in each state, regardless of their citizenship or immigration status. Additionally, Congress has reinforced that requirement by providing that the census must tabulate the "total population" by states, and the apportionment should be based on the "whole number of persons" in each state as determined by the census.

Notably, until the president's announcement in July, even other members of his administration acknowledged that apportionment must be based on all persons. The person tasked with overseeing the census — Secretary Ross — testified under oath during a congressional committee hearing last year that "The constitutional mandate, sir, for the census is to try to count every person residing in the U.S. at their place of residence on the dates when the census is conduct-

ed" — making no mention of an individual's legal status.

Attorney General James and the coalition will specifically argue that the exclusion of undocumented immigrants from the apportionment base violates Article I Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution, the Fourteenth Amendment, and the Census Act. Additionally, this exclusion conflicts with long-recognized Supreme Court precedent. Attorney General James and the coalition will ask the Supreme Court to require the president and his administration to adhere to their obligation to base congressional apportionment on "the whole number of persons in each state" and to forbid them from excluding undocumented immigrants from the apportionment base, just as the lower court did.

In 2018, the Office of the Attorney General filed a lawsuit against the Trump Administration, challenging its efforts to add a citizenship question to the census. Last June the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of New York by rejecting the effort to add the question. In August of last year, Attorney General James moved to intervene in a separate census case in Alabama where the federal government were defendants, in an effort to ensure the case is properly presented and that every resident in America — irrespective of citizenship status — is counted in the census. That case is still

Continued on page 12

Pregnant, exhausted, and turned back at the border

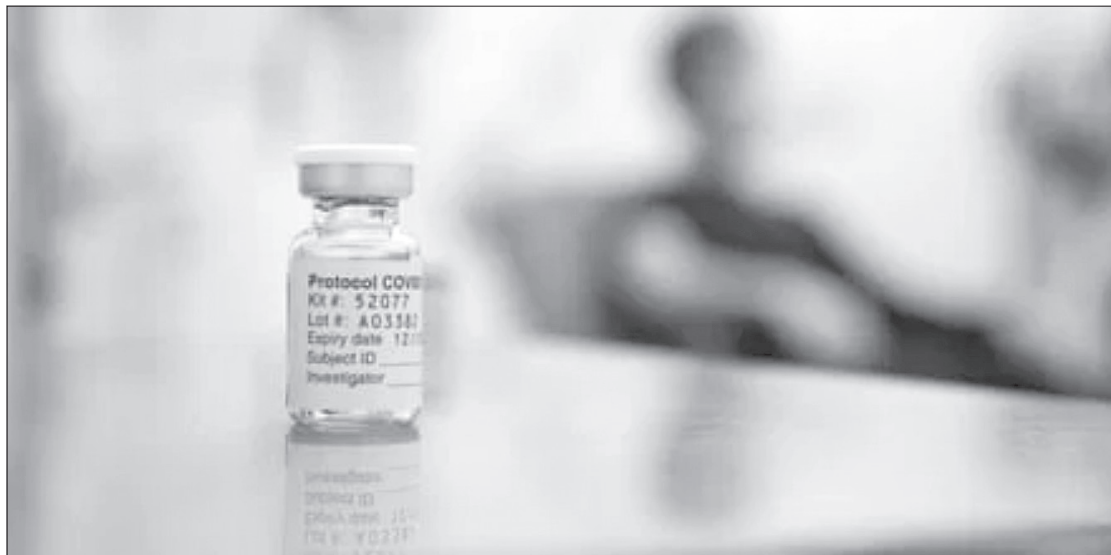
MATAMOROS, Mexico — Griselda was 38 weeks pregnant when she sneaked across the Rio Grande into the United States late one night last year. She started having contractions in a Border Patrol facility in McAllen, Texas, and was taken to a hospital where the medical staff gave her an injection to calm her pain and stop her from going into early labor.

Two days later, she was on a crowded bus back to Mexico, moving into a tent camp with hundreds of other migrants who were waiting for permission to enter the United States. When she finally gave birth 10 days later, her tiny daughter joined her there until a local shelter made room for them.

The wide-ranging new controls on immigration put into place under the Trump administration have made it harder for migrants of all kinds to cross the Southern border, but they have been particularly difficult for pregnant women, who often arrive at the border after arduous journeys, in a state of exhaustion.

Previously, many such women would be allowed to petition for asylum and give birth in safety in the United States while their cases were being considered. But most now, like Griselda, are sent swiftly back to Mexico to take their chances in crowded shelters and filthy tent camps. Some are held in U.S. detention facilities for months.





Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine to be sold to developing countries at cost price

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The coronavirus vaccine produced by Oxford University and AstraZeneca will be available on a non-profit basis “in perpetuity” to low- and middle-income countries in the developing world.

The details of arrangements to supply poorer countries came as AstraZeneca revealed the interim results of a phase 3 trial of the vaccine, which is being heralded as the first to meet the more challenging requirements of the developing world.

However, vaccine hopes for poorer nations were tempered by the head of the World Health Or-

ganization, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who said there was a risk the world’s poor could be trampled in a “stampede for vaccines”, adding that \$4.3bn (£3.2bn) was still needed in order to share vaccines fairly.

Unlike the vaccine produced by Pfizer-BioNTech, which requires ultra-cold storage, the AstraZeneca vaccine can be kept in the kind of conventional fridge used to store vaccines around the world, with a shelf life of up to six months.

Also unlike the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, AstraZeneca’s experimental vaccine is already a part of Covax, the global initiative that is hoping to distribute about 2bn

doses to 92 low- and middle-income countries at a maximum cost of \$3 a dose.

As global justice campaigners demanded more transparency from Oxford and AstraZeneca over details of the deal to supply doses to people in the developing world, the partnership confirmed in a statement that lower-income countries would receive the vaccine on a not-for-profit basis.

“A key element of Oxford’s partnership with AstraZeneca is the joint commitment to provide the vaccine on a not-for-profit basis for the duration of the pandemic across the world, and in perpetuity to low- and middle-income countries,” it said.

What we can learn from 1918’s deadly second wave

(CNN)

In the deadly fall wave of the 1918 flu pandemic, millions of people were doomed because they didn’t know what we know now about how viruses and respiratory illnesses spread.

We might face a similar fate if some people continue to ignore what a century of scientific progress and hindsight have taught us about ending pandemics.

The 1918 pandemic transpired in three waves, from the spring of

1918 to the winter of 1919 — ultimately killing 50 million to 100 million people globally. The first wave in the spring of 1918 was relatively mild. A majority of 1918 flu deaths occurred in the fall of 1918 — the second, and worst, wave of the 1918 flu.

The St. Louis Red Cross Motor Corps was on duty with mask-wearing women holding stretchers at the backs of ambulances during the influenza epidemic in Missouri in October 1918.

Health experts expect

Covid-19 infections to increase this winter because the virus that causes Covid-19 is a coronavirus, and other coronaviruses spread more during winter. In wintry, less-humid air, virus-carrying particles can linger in the air longer. Additionally, our nasal membranes are drier and more vulnerable to infection in winter. And as the weather gets colder, we spend more time indoors without sufficient ventilation, which means the virus has a higher likelihood of spreading.



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Culture



Dave Chappelle talks Trump, 2020 election and COVID-19 on new episode of Joe Rogan Podcast

Newyorkbeacon.com

Joe Rogan welcomed Donnell Rawlings and Dave Chappelle to his podcast this week, where COVID-19 and the 2020 election were two of the hot topics they touched on.

"I'm far from an economist, but I will say that planning for your future is a good thing," Chappelle said about two hours into the discussion. "It's a necessary thing. Even though it's

uncertain, you have to remember the sun does rise every morning. So just keep moving." Chappelle then noted the terrible way Americans have handled the pandemic.

"I've never seen this before," Chappelle said. "You've never seen something as large as the American economy stop and then start back up. But it's a global phenomenon. It's not like it's just happening to us. We're just handling it terribly."

Over 88,000 fans petition for LeVar Burton to become next 'Jeopardy' host

Newyorkbeacon.com

Famed Jeopardy host Alex Trebek passed away last week after losing his battle with pancreatic cancer at 80-years-old. Following his death, people are starting to speculate — and suggest — about who will replace the iconic host. In the midst of all of this, Star Trek actor and Reading Rainbow host, LeVar Burton, was thrown into the mix as fans started a petition to have him become the next host of the famed game show, according to change.org.

Sascha Hlawacz started the petition last week, "Make LeVar Burton the next host of Jeopardy!"

"Between hosting 21 seasons of the educational Reading Rainbow, playing the brainiac

engineer Geordi La Forge on Star Trek: The Next Generation, and filling the role of Kunta Kinte in the ever-important mini-series Roots, LeVar Burton has inspired and shaped the minds of several generations of trivia-loving nerds. This petition is to show Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc. and producers Mike Richards and Harry Friedman just how much love the public has for Burton, and how much we'd all love to see him as the next host of Jeopardy!"

As of this writing, over 88,000 people have signed the petition in anticipation of getting to 150,000.

Burton took to Twitter to not only acknowledge the petition but to show his appreciation to those who support that decision.



Michael Jackson's "Thriller" continues to reach new milestones

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire

Thirty-eight years ago, Michael Jackson released his groundbreaking "Thriller" album, and the music world has never been the same.

Jackson himself would never be the same either.

The album, which featured such iconic hits as "Beat It," "Billie Jean," and a duet with Paul McCartney on, "The Girl is Mine," has sold an estimated 66 million copies worldwide and has traded places regularly with the Greatest Hits of the Eagles as the best-selling U.S. album of all-time.

"The King of Pop" would go on to capture the imagination of an entire generation, winning eight Grammy Awards for Thriller, including Record and Album of the Year, and Producer of the Year.

A year later, he released the Thriller video, which broke barriers and instantly became the most-watched music video ever.

Jackson's 1983 performance of "Billie Jean," during the celebration of Motown's 25th Anniversary, earned him an Emmy nomination and a telephone call from Fred Astaire.

"It was the most extraordinary



thing, a most special moment," Jackson said at the time.

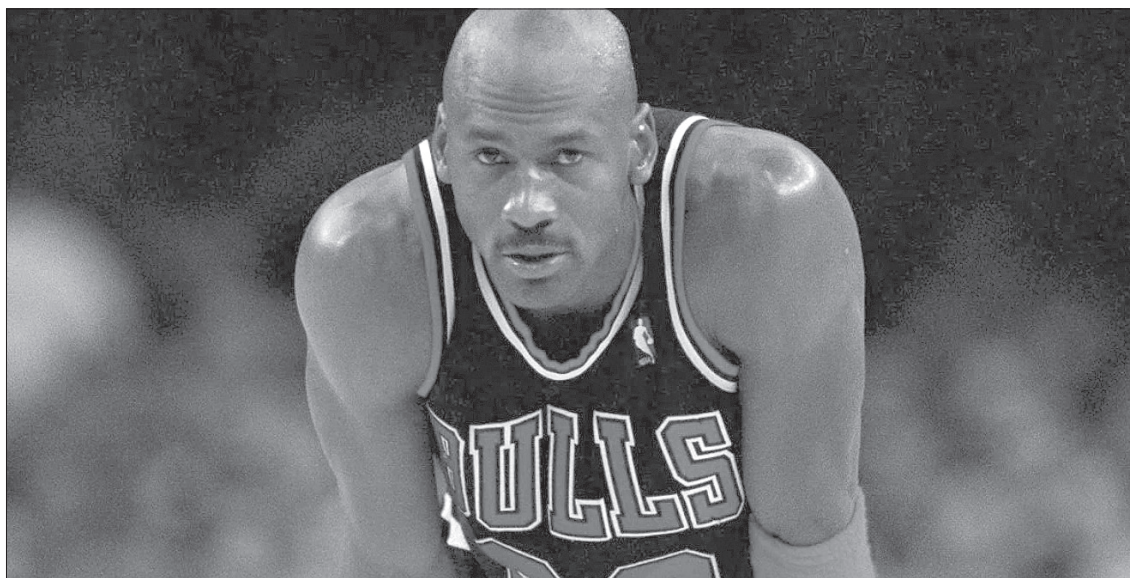
Today, artists young and old are still trying to copy Jackson's blueprint for success, and most still revere him. Jackson died in 2009 at the age of 50.

This week, Rolling Stone paid homage to Jackson with "12 Thrilling Facts About Michael Jackson's 'Thriller' Video."

"In adolescence, youngsters begin to grow hair in unexpected places, and parts of their anatomy swell and grow," director John Landis explained, regarding the role of the werewolf metaphor

in cinematic history. "Everyone experiences these physical transformations in their bodies and new, unfamiliar, sexual thoughts in their minds. No wonder we readily accept the concept of a literal metamorphosis."

Further, the largest number of people doing the "Thriller" zombie-dance routine, according to the Guinness Book of World Records: "13,597 participants in an event organized by the Instituto de la Juventud del Gobierno del Distrito Federal at the Monumento a la Revolucion, Mexico City, Mexico, on 29 Aug 2009."



Michael Jordan donates \$2m from his documentary 'The Last Dance' to Feeding America

Newyorkbeacon.com

Arguably the world's greatest basketball player, Charlotte Hornets owner and former Chicago Bulls legend, Michael Jordan, has scored again! The NBA Hall of Famer has made a \$2 million donation to Feeding America to assist in its mission to help end hunger.

The organization posted about Jordan's latest contribution on their Twitter account earlier this week.

The 6 time NBA champion has donated funds from the ESPN documentary that aired earlier this year, "The Last Dance."

In a written statement, Jordan said, "In these challenging times and in a year of unimaginable difficulty due to COVID-19, it's more important than ever to pause and give thanks. I am proud to be donating additional proceeds from The Last Dance to Feeding America and its member food banks in the Carolinas and

Chicago to help feed America's hungry."

The former basketball player has been busy this year! Just over a year after Michael Jordan opened a medical clinic in Charlotte, North Carolina, he has opened a second location in Charlotte last month.

Two months ago, Jordan announced the purchase of a NASCAR Cup Series Charter with Bubba Wallace as the driver when the 2021 NASCAR Cup Series season begins.



By Victoria Horsford

What's going on

TRUMP/BIDEN COVID19

President-elect Joe Biden continues to announce his nominees for the 15 US Cabinet posts and other senior level support networkers. To date his candidates are eminently qualified and represent diversity. It is well known that the Biden victory formula included a coalition of suburban women, African-American and Latino women, college educated voters regardless of race or ethnicity, and young voters. The following lists Biden choices of Blacks for cabinet and senior level posts.

ECONOMICS: Nigeria-born Adewale (Wally) Adeyemo, an Obama Administration alum and a key negotiator for his Trans Pacific Partnership plan which would have curbed China's geopolitics ambitions, which was abandoned by Democrats like Hillary Clinton and others in 2016, for Deputy Treasury Secretary. Princeton University economist, Cecilia Rouse, is nominee to Chair the Council of Economic Advisers, a cabinet post level post.

COMMUNICATIONS: The Biden White House communications and press team is all female. Black staffers include 1) Ashley Etienne, former Nancy Pelosi's communications chief, will be Vice President Harris' communications director. 2) Karine Jean Pierre, former ubiquitous MSNBC/NBC political analyst and MoveOn.org public affairs official, who served as Chief of Staff for VP Kamala Harris has been named principal deputy press secretary. 3) Symone Sanders, Sr. Adviser/Chief spokeswoman for VP elect Kamala Harris

While the Biden announcements to date are impressive, I thought that an African American would have landed one of the plum Cabinet jobs like Secretary of State, Secretary of the Treasury or Secretary of Defense, the latter of which still has to be determined. Homeland Security and Attorney General are coveted titles during any Presidential Administration. The AG has not been announced. There are still lots of cabinet posts to be announced: Education, Transpor-

tation, Labor, Housing and Urban Development, Commerce, all very important. President elect Biden got 90% of the Black vote!

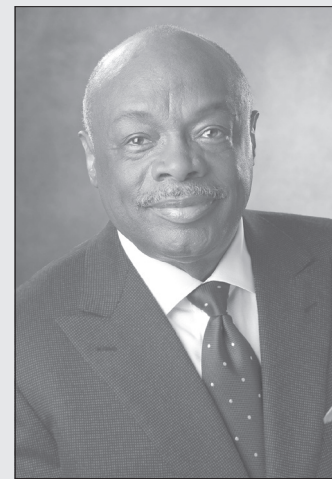
GEORGIA: The State of Georgia is on everybody's mind. On January 5, 2021 runoff race in that state will determine the fate of the US Senate and easy execution of the Biden presidential agenda. Neither party holds a majority in the US Senate. The outcome of the runoff determines if America must navigate four more years of McConnell GOP obstructionism or if we can set sail into calmer waters welcoming a speedy economic recovery and elimination of the COVID blight. The two Georgia Democratic candidates for the US Senate are African American Rev. Raphael Warnock and Jewish businessman and media executive Jon Ossoff, who represent American hope and a Democratic Senate majority, which the nation has been lusting since 2016. Send your money and prayers to Messrs Warnock and Ossoff for a Democrat miracle.



Karine Jean Pierre

There will be 16 days of in person voting. December 7 is registration deadline. If Georgia made a Biden victory possible, it can reprise that Democratic turnout and victory for 1/5 Senate race.

CALIFORNIA: Who replaces Kamala Harris in the US Senate whose term expires in two years? It's a worrisome choice for Democratic Governor Gavin Newsom. Does he name the a loyalist Latino like Secretary of State Alex



Willie Brown

Padillo or an African American like Congress members Barbara Lee or Karen Bass. Latinos comprised 1/3 of the state's 2020 electorate and represent 40% of the state's population. Governor Newsom may take a more diplomatic route and name eminence grise, like Willie Brown, 82, former California Assembly Speaker to replace Senator Harris.

The Electoral College votes on December 14

ENTERPRISE

BOARD NOTES: Charles Phillips was named to the American Express Board of directors effective December 1. Phillips is co-founder and managing partner of the newly-launched RECOGNIZE, a technology investing and transformation

company. Former Oracle President, Phillips also served as President/Chair of Infor, a software application provider. Previous Board associations include ViacomCBS, Federal Reserve Banks, and Council on Foreign Relations.

Bridges Philanthropies Consulting, BPC, a social justice fundraising firm, has formed a new Corporate Advisory Board, composed of prominent business leaders which will be chaired by Reginald Van Lee, Chief Transformation Officer

of the Carlyle Group, former SVP, Booz Allen Hamilton. The other Advisory Board members include Betty Aquino, Esquire Bank; Sylvia Brooks, nonprofit expert; Bishop Kerry Bryant, PhD. Mt Pisgah Baptist Church; Bob Carter, Carter Global; Vivian

Pickard, Pickard Group and former President, General Motors Foundation; Desrye Morgan, Wells Fargo Securities. BPC is the nation's largest full-service, African-American owned fundraising firm. Dwayne Ashley is BPC Chief Executive Officer.

AG James defends census against Trump admin attack at Supreme Court

From page 11

pending. Additionally, in August, Attorney General James led a large coalition in supporting legal action against the Trump Administration's efforts to impair the 2020 Decennial Census by reducing — by an entire month, from October 31 to September 30 — the time in which self-response questionnaires would be accepted and door-to-door follow-ups by census enumerators would take place. After multiple court battles, the coalition was able to help extend the time to respond to the census by more than two weeks.

Members of New York's congressional delegation today also offered their support of Attorney General James' fight to protect the integrity of the census against the Trump Administration's latest attack. "Once again, President Trump is trying to silence diverse

voices from being counted in the census by excluding millions of immigrants from the apportionment base, which determines the number of U.S. Representatives for each state," said U.S. Representative Jerrold Nadler (NY-10). "This is a clear violation of the Constitution's guarantee of equal representation. The Supreme Court must reject yet another attempt by the Trump Administration to manipulate election outcomes and reduce the voting power of diverse, immigrant-rich communities, including those within New York."

"Donald Trump has made clear, through his anti-immigrant agenda, of his administration's desire to diminish the role of immigrants in our communities," said U.S. Representative Nydia Velázquez (NY-07). "This latest attempt is blatantly unconstitutional as our Constitution demands that the census count every person. Immigrants are our family

members, neighbors, co-workers, and friends, and the census must reflect their contributions to our communities by ensuring every person, regardless of legal status, is counted."

"As I said earlier this year, President Trump does not get to choose who he wants to count in reapportionment," said U.S. Representative Grace Meng (NY-06). "Each person — regardless of citizenship status — must be counted, and his attempt to ban immigrants from this process is yet another effort by the president to kick immigrants to the curb. Over the summer, the House passed my measure to block President Trump's plan from moving forward, and I commend this latest effort by Attorney General Letitia James, and her leadership, in arguing against the president's attempts before the U.S. Supreme Court. We will not stop fighting for our hard-working immigrant communities!"

"The Trump Administration's repeated efforts to sabotage the census are clear attempts to suppress participation and ensure marginalized communities are left underfunded and undercounted," said U.S. Representative Joe Morelle (NY-25). "To use the census as a political tool and deny people their representation is not only ludicrous, it's blatantly unconstitutional. I'm grateful to Attorney General James for her dedicated efforts to hold Donald Trump accountable and to ensure every single person across our country is counted."

"The Trump Administration's efforts to squeeze resources out of communities most in need is callous and inhumane," said U.S. Representative-elect Jamaal Bowman (NY-16). "The purpose of the census is to gather accurate data to better inform resource allocation decisions. Not counting our undocumented community members, who rely on services

from local government, is counter to the purpose of the census and will not allow local governments to receive the resources they need to serve all community members."

Joining Attorney General James in today's case are the attorneys general of Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and the District of Columbia. The attorneys general are joined by the cities of Central Falls, RI; Chicago, IL; Columbus, OH; New York, NY; Philadelphia, PA; Phoenix, AZ; Pittsburgh, PA; Providence, RI; Seattle, WA; the city and county of San Francisco, CA; Monterey County in California; Howard County in Maryland; Cameron, El Paso, and Hidalgo Counties in Texas and the bipartisan U.S. Conference of Mayors.

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Flick chat

Keep a box of tissues handy

By Dwight Brown
Guest Scribe

“The Life Ahead”

Upon hearing the premise of this film, involving an 86-year-old Jewish Holocaust survivor and a 12-year-old Senegalese immigrant, you might think you're in for 94 minutes of sentimental drama. In some ways, maybe so. In others not. But out of an abundance of caution, keep a box of tissues handy.

The origin of this story goes back to 1975, when French Director/Screenwriter Romain Gary worked under the pseudonym Émile Ajar and penned the classic novel *La Vie Devant Soi* (*The Life Before Us*). An orphaned Arab boy, Momo, is devoted to Madame Rosa, a dying and elderly survivor of Auschwitz and a former prostitute. The setting is Paris' immigrant slum, Belleville, where ladies of the night, pimps, transvestites and petty thieves flourish. Gary's book earned France's Prix Goncourt—equivalent to a Pulitzer—firmly establishing the tale's pedigree.

Director/Writer Moshé Mizrahi adapted the book for the screen in 1977, dubbed his movie “*Madame Rosa*” and changed the locale to Pigalle, a Paris neighborhood once known for prostitution. He cast veteran French Actress Simone Signoret in the lead, made the boy an Algerian immigrant and won an Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film. Forty-three years later Gary's classic enduring narrative gets a refresh at a time when the plight



Actor Ibrahima Gueye, in his acting debut displays a maturity far beyond his 14 years

of immigrants couldn't be more topical. With a good sense for storytelling and an eye for those living in the margins, Director/Writer Edoardo Ponti, son of famed Italian Director Carlo Ponti reinterprets Gary's allegory. He sets it in the scenic port town of Bari,

located in Southern Italy's Puglia region and in a stroke of genius cast Senegalese actor Ibrahima Gueye as 12-year-old Momo and his 86-year-old mother, legendary Italian Actress Sophia Loren as Madame Rosa.

Their initial meeting in a mar-

ket square is a disaster. She, Madame Rosa, is shopping and he, Momo, steals one of her bags filled with antiques. He brings it home to his foster father Dr. Coen (Renato Carpentieri), who forces the little thief to return the items to their owner. Coen knows Rosa, who

takes care of the children of local sex workers, and urges the elderly ex-prostitute to take the boy in. Initially she and the kid are mutually repulsed. When Coen offers Rosa money she can't refuse, the boy is welcomed into her home.

Momo doesn't adapt quickly to his new surroundings or fellow urchins, like young Iosif (Iosif Diego Pirvu), a Romanian Jew. He slowly warms up to Rosa's Spanish transgender friend Lola (Abril Zamora). Meanwhile, the little scamp continues to deal drugs for a creep named Ruspa (Massimiliano Rossi), tethering himself to the bad life. When he finds work with an Iranian rugmaker Hamil (Babak Karimi), he's headed in the right direction. Slowly the icy relationship between Rosa and Momo thaws. First a truce. Then an understanding. Friendship. Then familial love.

Dementia sets in. The sporadic wandering and foggy trances confound Rosa, and Momo worries too. He is starting a new life. She sees the end of hers. The increasingly scared Rosa stares Momo in his eyes and pleads, “No matter what happens, I don't want to end up in a hospital. Promise me.” Can the manchild carry that weight?

Initially, the premise and odd mother/son relationship feel somewhat precious and the footage a bit too polished for the subject matter. The cinematography is too clear, sets too neat, and clothes too clean. A grimy setting for the street-level characters would have been more apropos and helped the film dabble in cinema verité.

As the story progresses, under the steady hand of Director Ponti and aided by an increasingly touching script (co-written with Ugo Chiti), the characters meld, the acting becomes more raw and the emotions deeper. The main characters are so vulnerable, you care about them. Their livelihoods so fragile you worry how they will survive. And when the mother hen's health declines, there's no turning back. You're invested.

How the hell will this film end? Could the final moments possibly be as poetic as the sequences building up to it? Some scenes are quite profound: Police routing African immigrants from their homes and streets. Some sad: Rosa's memories of Auschwitz haunt her. Some magical: A lioness animation appears on screen, the subject of Momo's imagination. Some alarming: It's frightening when Rosa goes missing, which upsets her surrogate family.

Loren exhibits a grace only an actress with her stature could muster. She deserves an Oscar nom. Ibrahima Gueye, in his acting debut, displays a maturity far beyond his 14 years, which he manifests well in a character arc that goes from rough, to tender, to heroic—without a hitch. The rest of the cast is excellent. However, Loren and Gueye shine brilliantly. In theaters and on Netflix Visit NNPA News Wire Film Critic Dwight Brown at DwightBrownInk.com and BlackPressUSA.com



Actors Gueye and Loren shine brilliantly. Sophia deserves an Oscar nomination (Photos: Courtesy Netflix)

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